GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:121
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2017
Nutrition Capacity Building Initiativeâ€”â€œSangamâ€™â€™
Reddy Shri Ponguleti Srinivasa

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether various studies have revealed that Poverty and Malnutrition are the main causes for stunted children in the country and a collective effort by involving various stakeholders is required to combat malnutrition and stunted growth among children and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Union Government/ National Institute of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) has initiated some steps towards "Multi Sector Nutrition Capacity Building Initiativeâ€” Sangam", if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the project; and

(d) the details of the goals set under the project and achievements made so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)
(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 121 due for answer on 09.03.2017
(a) to (d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has recently published National Family Health Survey − 4 for 2015-16. The results show that incidence of stunted growth among the children under 5 years of age has reduced by nearly 10 percentage points form 48% in 2005-06 to 38.4% in 2015-16. The study has indicated that poverty and malnutrition are the important causes for child stunting, among others. To foster collective effort involving various sectors to combat malnutrition and stunted growth, Government has taken multi-dimensional approach to address issues related to housing, sanitation, drinking water, health, education, economic empowerment, awareness generation to reduce poverty. Initiatives such as construction of toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission, nutrition supplement under Integrated Child Development Scheme, improvement in health infrastructure under National Health Mission, access to safe drinking water under National Rural Drinking Water Programme have the potential to address the problem of stunted growth effectively. In addition to this, the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Rural Livelihoods Mission, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana − Gramin for economic empowerment and poverty reduction.

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) has initiated a project called "Multi Sector Nutrition Capacity Building Initiative - Sangam" in January, 2016 with the support of United Nations International Children"s Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The duration of the project is for 3 years.

The project aims to prepare a training module with mapping of domain experts, brainstorming workshop and develop capacities of development functionaries for sensitization towards nutrition aspects and malnutrition.

The mandate of "Sangam" scheme is to

i. Develop a multi-modular learning kit in select sectors for Nutrition Capacity building among the officials of rural development, Panchayati Raj and allied departments, representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and civil society organizations.

ii. Roll-out, disseminate and institutionalize these multi-sectoral nutrition capacity building initiatives.

During the initial phase, work related to landscape mapping of sectors and structure of training module has been developed.